

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims according to the following directions. Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application with the following list of claims:

1-128. (cancelled)

129. (new) A method for booking reservations on a plurality of private aircraft, comprising:
 - receiving an availability for at least one private aircraft;
 - posting the availability on an electronic medium;
 - receiving reservation bids from a plurality of independent passengers, each of the reservation bids including a specific destination request and a payment offer;
 - selecting a number of the received reservation bids, wherein the selected bids collectively satisfy a predetermined set of reservation criteria for the private aircraft, said reservation criteria including a departure location, a set of rules identifying possible destination locations, a departure time constraint, and a minimum total payment required to reserve the private aircraft;
 - accepting the selected bids;
 - communicating to each of the independent passengers associated with the selected bids a first notification of the acceptance.
 - communicating to an owner of the private aircraft a second notification of the acceptance;
 - transmitting to the owner of the private aircraft a final passenger list and a final flight schedule that is substantially consistent with the departure time constraint, the departure location, and the specific destination request; and
 - flying the private aircraft substantially according to the final flight schedule.
130. (new) A method for booking reservations on a plurality of private aircraft, comprising:
 - receiving an availability for at least one private aircraft;
 - posting the availability on an electronic medium;
 - receiving reservation bids from a plurality of independent passengers;
 - selecting a number of the received reservation bids, wherein the selected bids collectively satisfy a predetermined set of reservation criteria;
 - accepting the selected bids; and
 - reserving the private aircraft based upon the acceptance of the selected bids.

131. (new) The method of claim 130, wherein the predetermined set of reservation criteria includes a departure location and a set of rules identifying possible destination locations, and wherein each of the reservation bids includes a specific destination request.

132. (new) The method of claim 131, wherein each of the selected bids includes the same specific destination request.

133. (new) The method of claim 132, wherein the same specific destination request satisfies the set of rules identifying possible destination locations.

134. (new) The method of claim 130, wherein the predetermined set of reservation criteria includes a total profitability threshold.

135. (new) The method of claim 134, wherein the total profitability threshold is expressed as a function of seats and price per seat.

136. (new) The method of claim 130, wherein the reservation bids are responsive to the posted availability.

137. (new) The method of claim 130, further comprising:

communicating a notification of the acceptance to each of the passengers associated with the selected bids.

138. (new) The method of claim 130, further comprising:

communicating a notification of the acceptance to an owner of the private aircraft.

139. (new) The method of claim 130, further comprising:

terminating the availability and refusing the received reservation bids if, within a predetermined period of time, no bids can be selected that collectively satisfy the predetermined set of reservation criteria.

140. (new) A reservation system for private aircraft, comprising:

a reservation service operated by a reservation service owner;

an airplane operated by a private airplane owner, said airplane owner independent of said reservation service owner;

said reservation service to receive electronically from said airplane owner a flight availability for said airplane, said flight availability including a departure location, a set of rules identifying possible destination locations, a departure time constraint, and a minimum total

payment required to reserve said airplane, said minimum total payment expressed as a function of available seats and price per seat;

 said reservation service to post said flight availability on an electronic medium;

 said reservation service to receive reservation bids electronically from a plurality of passengers, said passengers independent of said reservation service owner and said airplane owner, each of said reservation bids including a specific destination request and a payment offer;

 said reservation service to reserve said flight availability and to accept a selected number of said reservation bids if the selected number collectively satisfies the minimum total payment and if the destination requests collectively match the set of rules identifying possible destination locations;

 said reservation service to transmit a notification of said reserved flight availability to said airplane owner;

 said reservation service to transmit a notification of said acceptance to each of the passengers associated with the accepted reservation bid;

 said reservation service to transmit electronically to said airplane owner a final passenger list and a final flight schedule that is substantially consistent with said departure time constraints, said departure location, and said destination location;

 said airplane to fly substantially according to said final flight schedule;

 said reservation service to collect a payment from each of the passengers, said payment corresponding to said payment offer; and

 said reservation service to transfer said collected payment to said airplane owner.

141. (new) The reservation system of claim 140, further comprising:

 said reservation service to terminate said flight availability and to refuse said reservation bids if said reservation service fails to match a number of reservation bids with said flight availability such that said minimum total payment requirement is met.